

Report

Manhattan NPS Sites

■ 1.0 Site Descriptions

There are six NPS sites that are managed under the designation of Manhattan Sites. Five of these are actually in Manhattan (Castle Clinton National Monument, Federal Hall National Memorial, Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site, General Grant National Memorial, and Hamilton Grange National Memorial) and the fifth site (St. Paul's Church National Historic Site) is located in Mount Vernon, New York, which is in Westchester County just north of New York City. With the exception of the Mount Vernon site, all are accessible by public transportation. A brief description of each follows:

- **Castle Clinton NM** – Originally built as a fortress to defend New York Harbor, Castle Clinton, located in Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan, once served as an opera house and theater, an immigrant processing center (prior to the use of Ellis Island), and an aquarium.
- **Federal Hall NM** – Located at 26 Wall Street in lower Manhattan, the site marks the location of New York's 18th Century City Hall. Many events significant to the origins of the United States Government took place here, including the convening of the First Congress and the swearing in of George Washington.
- **Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS** – Located at 28 East 20th Street between Broadway and Park Avenue South, the site was the home of Theodore Roosevelt for the first 14 years of his life. The site is open Wednesday to Sunday and is visited most often between April and May by school groups.
- **General Grant NM** – Popularly known as Grant's Tomb, the memorial is the final resting place of General Ulysses S. Grant and his wife Julia and is the largest mausoleum in North America. The NM is located on Riverside Drive and 122nd Street in park land adjacent to the Hudson River.
- **Hamilton Grange NM** – Located on Convent Avenue between West 141st and 142nd Streets in the Harlem Heights section of Manhattan, this late 18th Century home was commissioned by Alexander Hamilton, which he occupied for two years prior to his fatal encounter in a duel with Aaron Burr.
- **St. Paul's Church NHS** – Dating back to its origins as the spiritual home of the Dissenters (nonmembers of the Church of England) in 1665, the St. Paul's Church NHS is located in Mount Vernon, approximately seven miles north of the Borough of Manhattan.

■ 2.0 Existing ATS

With the exception of St. Paul’s Church NHS, all Manhattan Sites are easily accessible by public transportation and have public on-street parking. A brief description of the means of access to each follows:

- **Castle Clinton NM** – This site is accessible by several subway and bus lines as well as the Staten Island Ferry. Limited tour bus parking is available.
- **Federal Hall NM** – This site is accessible by several subway lines.
- **Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS** – This site is accessible by two subway lines and five bus routes.
- **General Grant NM** – Access to this site is via the Number 1 subway line and then bus service running along Broadway and Riverside Drive. Some parking is available at the site.
- **Hamilton Grange NM** – Access is via the A and D subway lines.
- **St. Paul’s Church NHS** – The nearest public transit service to this site is the Mount Vernon Commuter Rail Station, located 1.2 miles from the site. Service on this line, which is on the New Haven Line of the Metro North Railroad, is less frequent than the bus or subway lines that serve the other sites. Bee Line Bus service operates between the rail station and nearby SR 22 (Columbus Avenue). Off-street parking is provided on adjoining industrial property.

■ 3.0 ATS Needs

The only site with potential Alternative Transportation Systems (ATS) needs is St. Paul’s NHS. According to Joseph Avery in the Superintendent’s office, any ATS services need to be explored within the context of marketing the site itself. General awareness needs to be enhanced to increase visitation. At that time, potential enhancements to bus services in the Mount Vernon area could help to attract more visitors who would access the site by the rail system.

Should visitation increase at this site, the adequacy of parking could become a concern. On-street parking is limited in the area such that stronger transit connections or a park and ride shuttle would potentially be needed. There is a recognition that improved access may be warranted and that coordination with local officials to enhance this is also suggested.

Figure 1 illustrates the existing connections between the rail station and St. Paul’s NHS.



■ 4.0 Basis of ATS Needs

Given the location of five of the six sites within Manhattan, transit and pedestrian access is extant and quite good. As with many of the lesser known sites however, there is a desire to increase visitation through increasing awareness. To that end, signage enhancements may be needed in the neighborhoods surrounding the sites. More important, however, is the need to increase publicity and promotion of the sites. If visitation were to increase, the St. Paul's Church NHS may need to be revisited for potential transit service enhancements.

■ 5.0 Bibliography

National Park Service web sites:

- Castle Clinton National Monument: www.nps.gov/cacl.
- Federal Hall National Memorial: www.nps.gov/feha.
- Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site: www.nps.gov/cacl.

- General Grant National Memorial: www.nps.gov/gegr.
- Hamilton Grange National Memorial: www.nps.gov/hagr.
- St. Paul's Church National Historic Site: www.nps.gov/sapa.

■ 6.0 Persons Interviewed

Joseph Avery, Manhattan Sites